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FRESNO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS FOR INVESTMENT FRAUD SCHEME

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that FLETCHER H. ANDERSON, 54, of Fresno, California, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to 15 months in custody in connection with an investment fraud scheme. The sentence is to be followed by a three-year term of supervised release. In rejecting ANDERSON's request for home confinement, Judge Ishii noted that ANDERSON, a repeat offender who had been previously convicted of tax evasion in 2004, had committed a very serious offense that affected the lives of the victims as well as their families.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Sheila K. Oberto and Stanley A. Boone, who prosecuted the case, in connection with his guilty plea, ANDERSON admitted that he took approximately \$86,000 from investors in 2002, while he was on pre-trial release in connection with the tax evasion charges. ANDERSON told some of the investors that the investment program helped with the construction of the newly formed democracy of Moldova, which arose out of the collapse of the Soviet Union and that they would make money by taking advantage of the fluctuating exchange rate between the United States and Moldova. In truth, however, ANDERSON used the funds for his personal benefit.

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